GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2036
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003
LOSS OF HARVESTED CROPS
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether post harvest loss of crops, particularly fruits and vegetables has reached to the tune of over 30% in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to minimize the loss of harvested crops?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): Horticultural produce including fruits and vegetables are perishable in nature. As per the Report of Working Group on Horticulture Development for 10th Plan set up by the Planning Commission, the wastage of these crops has been estimated to range from 8-37% at various stages of handling after harvesting due to inadequate post harvest infrastructure including transport and storages.

(c): National Horticulture Board under the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing various programmes to reduce post harvest losses of horticulture crops like fruits and vegetables, etc. through creation of post harvest infrastructure. The programmes are (i) `Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce` since 1999 and (ii) `Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management` since May, 2000. Under the Scheme mentioned at (i) above, the Board has sanctioned 716 cold storage projects creating an additional capacity of 31.79 lakh tonnes with an eligible back-ended Capital Investment Subsidy of Rs.208.17 crores. Under the Scheme mentioned at (ii) above, 1078 projects have been sanctioned with the subsidy of Rs.50.94 crores upto 31.3.2003.